## UNITEDSTATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

#### McGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C.

Mary F. Higgins (No. 4179) 1001 North Jefferson Street, Suite 208 Wilmington, DE 19801 (302) 225-0458 – Telephone (302) 777-4111 – Facsimile Attorneys for Defendant

RAYMOND W. COBB and RAYMOND W. COBB, LLC, A Delaware Limited Liability Company,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

McGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C., A Foreign Professional Corporation

Defendant.

## NOTICE OF REMOVAL TO FEDERAL COURT

## TO: THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

Defendant McGivney & Kluger, P.C.,, by and through the undersigned attorneys, files this Notice of Removal of the above-entitled action from the Superior Court of Delaware-New Castle County, and respectfully submits the following as the bases for removal to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441, *et seq.* and 1446(a):

#### Introduction

1. Plaintiffs have initiated this action in the Superior Court of Delaware-New Castle County, alleging that plaintiffs Raymond W. Cobb, LLC and Raymond W. Cobb, Esq., entered into a contract with defendant McGivney & Kluger, P.C. ("MK").

- 2. Copies of the plaintiffs' Summons and Complaint filed in the state court are annexed hereto as Exhibit A.
- 3. The matter in state court is known as <u>Cobb v. McGivney & Kluger, P.C.</u>, and has been assigned the Civil Action. No. 08C-02-368 TBA.

#### **Bases for Federal Jurisdiction**

#### Diversity of Citizenship

- 4. At the time of the commencement of this action, plaintiff Raymond W. Cobb, Esq., is an attorney at law of the State of Delaware. Upon information and belief, he resides in Delaware and maintains his principle office c/o Raymond W. Cobb, LLC, 1001 North Jefferson Street, Suite 208, Wilmington, Delaware.
- 5. Upon information and belief, and at the time of the commencement of this action, plaintiff Raymond W. Cobb, LLC, is a limited liability company established pursuant to the laws of the State of Delaware, and which has a principle office at 1001 North Jefferson Street, Suite 208, Wilmington, Delaware.
- 6. At the time of the commencement of this action, MK is a professional corporation for the practice of law that is incorporated pursuant to the laws of the State of New Jersey and authorized to do business in Delaware as a foreign corporation, and has its principle office at 23 Vreeland Road, Suite 220, Florham Park, New Jersey.
- 7. Therefore, there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties per 28 U.S.C. §1332(a) (1) and (c) (1).
- 8. MK is not a citizen of Delaware and the action is properly removable to this Court per 28 U.S.C. §1441(a and b).

9. The fact that MK is authorized to do business in Delaware as a foreign corporation does not change the fact that its citizenship for purposes of determining diversity jurisdiction is in New Jersey, the state where (as alleged in the state court complaint, Para. 3) it is incorporated and where its principle place of business is located. "The mere fact that a corporation is doing business or is licensed to do business in a state does not make it a citizen of that state for purposes of diversity jurisdiction." Jim Walter Investors v. Empire-Madison, Inc., 401 F.Supp. 425, 426-27 (N.D.Ga.1975), Barnett v. Norfolk & Dedham Mut. Fire Ins. Co., 773 F.Supp. 1529, 1531 (N.D.Ga.1991)." Tremble v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co., 2007 WL 1582759 at \*2 (S.D.Ga. 2007). Accord, Comfort Realty Corp. v. Balboa Life Ins. Co., 2005 WL 2581483 (M.D.Fla.2005)(mere authority to do business does not establish a state of incorporation or the existence of a principle place of business per 28 U.S.C. 1332(c)(1) necessary for corporate citizenship).

### **Amount in Controversy**

- 10. In their Complaint, plaintiffs allege that they are owed \$165,025 as a result of MK's breach of contract by reason of its failure to have paid them pursuant to the contract.
- 11. Plaintiffs also allege that MK is liable for double damages and attorney's fees for violation of 19 Del. C. 1101, *et seq*.
- 12. MK believes that the demand for enhanced damages under Delaware law is frivolous.
- 13. Nonetheless, the foregoing allegations and statements on behalf of the plaintiffs demonstrate that the amount in controversy herein exceeds \$75,000.

14. Therefore, by reason of the diversity of citizenship between the parties and the amount in controversy, this action could have been initiated in this Court and is removable pursuant to 28 §U.S.C. 1441(a and b).

#### Venue

15. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441(a), venue is proper in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware because this District embraces the place where the removed action is pending.

#### **The Notice of Removal Is Timely**

- 16. Plaintiffs purported to provide a courtesy copy of their Complaint, annexed hereto as Exhibit A, upon MK via email prior to formal service, which was received on February 29, 2008.
- 17. Therefore, the time within which MK may remove this action to this Court has not yet elapsed and this Notice of Removal is filed in a timely manner. 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).
- 18. As of March 3, 2008, the undersigned has been authorized to accept service of process and an acknowledgment of service will be returned to counsel for plaintiffs following the filing of the within Notice of Removal.

#### **Papers Filed in the State Court**

19. The papers annexed as Exhibit A comprise all pleadings, process, orders and other papers filed with the Superior Court of Delaware-New Castle County. 28 U.S.C. §1446(a).

Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal

20. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(d), written Notice of the filing of the within Notice

of Removal will be served promptly upon counsel for the plaintiffs and will be filed immediately

with the Office of Prothonotary of the Superior Court of Delaware, New Castle County, at the

New Castle County Courthouse, 500 King Street Wilmington, Delaware, through that Court's

electronic filing system. A copy of this Notice of Filing (without Exhibit 1, which will be a copy

of the within Notice of Removal) is annexed hereto as Exhibit B.

WHEREFORE, defendant McGivney & Kluger, P.C., hereby removes the state court

action known as Cobb v. McGivney & Kluger, P.C., Civil Action. No. 08C-02-368 TBA, in the

Superior Court of Delaware, New Castle County.

McGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C.

Attorneys for Defendant

By: /s/ Mary F. Higgins

Mary F. Higgins

Dated: March 3, 2008

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**DECLARATION PURSUANT TO FRCP 7.1(a)** 

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that defendant Mcgivney and Kluger, P.C. is: a)

a nongovernmental party; b) that it has no parent corporation; and c) that no publicly traded

corporation owns 10% or more of its corporate stock or other ownership.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746 that the foregoing

statements made by me are true and I am aware that if they are willfully false, I am subject to

punishment.

/s/\_Mary F. Higgins
Mary F. Higgins

Dated: March 3, 2008

# **EXHIBIT A**

## SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STIEVEMENT 27:2008 10:01 AM EST.

				Transaction (D 18763199 🖥 👚 🥞	ĻΥ
COUNTY:	М	K	5	CIVIL ACTION NUMBER: (1245-014-, 08C-02-368 TBA)	
Civil Case Code		CDBT		Transaction  D 18763199 CIVIL ACTION NUMBER: (Case) No. 08C-02-368 TBA	
				(SC REVIEWS SIDE AND CODE AND THEFT)	

Caption:	Name and Status of Party filing document:			
RAYMOND W. COBB and RAYMOND W.	Raymond W. Cobb, et al., Plaintiffs			
COBB, LLC,	Document Type; (e.g.; Complaint; Answer with counterclaim)			
Plaintiffs,	Complaint			
	Non-Arbitration XX			
	(CERTIFICATE OF VALUE MAY BE REQUIRED)  Arbitration Mediation Neutral Assessment  Defendant (Circle one) ACCEPT REJECT  JURY DEMAND YESXX No			
MC GIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C.,				
Defendant.				
	TRACK ASSIGNMENT REQUESTED (CIRCLE ONE)			
	EXPEDITED STANDARD COMPLEX			
	EXPEDITED STANDARD COMPLEX			
ATTORNEY NAME(s):	IDENTIFY ANY RELATED CASES NOW PENDING IN THE SUPERIOR COURT			
Jeffrey M. Weiner, Esquire	BY CAPTION MID CIVIL ACTION NUMBER INCLUDING JUDGE'S INITIALS			
ATTORNEY ID(S):				
#403				
FIRM NAME;	EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP(S);			
Law Offices of Jeffrey M. Weiner,	F.A.			
ADDRESS:				
1332 King Street				
Wilmington, Delaware 19801				
TELEPHONE NUMBER:				
(302) 652-0505	OTHER UNUSUAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT CASE MANAGEMENT:			
FAX NUMBER:				
(302) 652-7824				
E-MAIL ADDRESS:				
LegalW@aol.com				
,,	(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, PLEASE ATTACH PAGE)			

THE PROTHONOTARY WILL NOTPROCESS THE COMPLAINT, ANSWER, OR FIRST RESPONSIVE PLEADING IN THIS MATTER FOR SERVICE UNTIL THE CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS) IS PILED. THE FAILURE TO FILE THE CIS AND HAVE THE PLEADING PROCESSED FOR SERVICEMAY RESULT IN THE DISMISSAL OF THE COMPLAINT OR MAY RESULT IN THE ANSWER OR FIRST RESPONSIVE PLEADING BEING STRICKEN.

EFiled: Feb 27 2008 10:01 (LEST.)
Transaction ID 18763199
Case No. 08C-02-368 TBAE
SUMMON

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

RAYMOND W. COBB and

RAYMOND W. COBB, LLC, a Delaware:
Limited Liability Company, C.A. No. 08C-02-

Plaintiffs, : NON-ARBITRATION

: JURY TRIAL OF 12 DEMANDED

MCGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C., a :
Foreign Professional Corporation, :

Defendant.

THE STATE OF DELAWARE, TO THE SHERIFF OF KENT COUNTY YOU ARE COMMANDED:

To summon the above named defendant so that, within 20 days after service hereof upon defendant, exclusive of the day of service, defendant shall serve upon Jeffrey M. Weiner, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1332 King Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, an answer to the Complaint (and, if the Complaint contains a specific notation requiring the Defendant to answer any or all allegations of the Complaint by affidavit, an affidavit of defense).

To serve upon Defendant a copy hereof and of the Complaint.

Dated: SHARON AGNEW
Prothonotary

Per Deputy

#### TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:

In case of your failure, within 20 days after service hereof upon you, exclusive of the day of service, to serve on Plaintiff's attorney named above an answer to the Complaint (and, if the Complaint contains a specific notation requiring the Defendant to answer any and all allegations of the Complaint by affidavit, an affidavit of defense), judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SHARON AG	NEW							
Prothonotary								
•								
Per Deputy	····							

EFIIEd: Feb 27 2008 10:01 (Feb 27 20) (Feb 27

#### IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

RAYMOND W. COBB and

RAYMOND W. COBB, LLC, a Defaware:

Limited Liability Company, : C.A. No. 08C-02-

Plaintiffs, : NON-ARBITRATION

; : JURY TRIAL OF 12 DEMANDED

MCGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C., a : Foreign Professional Corporation, :

Defendant.

#### PRAECIPE

PLEASE ISSUE a Summons and serve a copy of the Complaint upon Defendant, McGivney & Kluger, P.C. by serving the Secretary of the State of Delaware pursuant to 10 Del.C. §3104.

/s/ JEFFREY M. WEINER, ESQUIRE #403 JEFFREY M. WEINER, ESQUIRE #403

1332 King Street

Wilmington, Delaware 19801

(302) 652-0505 Counsel for Plaintiffs

DATED: February 26, 2008

#### IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

RAYMOND W. COBB and

RAYMOND W. COBB, LLC, a Delaware:

Limited Liability Company, : C.A. No. 08C-02-

:

Plaintiffs, : NO

٧.

: NON-ARBITRATION

MCGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C., a

Foreign Professional Corporation,

:

Defendant.

JURY TRIAL OF 12 DEMANDED

#### **COMPLAINT**

- Plaintiff, Raymond W. Cobb is an individual who is a Member of the Bar
  of the State of Delaware and is a resident of the State of Delaware.
- Plaintiff, Raymond W. Cobb, LLC is a Limited Liability Company of the
   State of Delaware and at all time material hereto did business in the State of Delaware.
- 3. Defendant, McGivney & Kluger, P.C. (hereinafter "M&K"), upon information and belief, at all times material hereto, is a foreign professional corporation formed under the laws of the State of New Jersey, which did business in the State of Delaware but failed to qualify to do so. Service of process may be made upon Defendant M&K by serving the Secretary of the State of Delaware pursuant to 10 Del.C. §3104.
- 4. Beginning on or about January 1, 2007 and continuing thereafter, Defendant employed Plaintiff Raymond W. Cobb as an attorney on behalf of itself and its clients and Defendant agreed to pay Plaintiff at the rate of \$125.00 per hour.

5. Plaintiff Raymond W. Cobb performed legal services on behalf of Defendant and its clients. Plaintiff submitted timesheets and/or bills for the time spent working on matters for Defendant and has made repeated demands for the agreed upon compensation. To date, Defendant has made no payments to either Plaintiff.

#### COUNT I

- 6. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs I through 5 of the Complaint as if set forth at length therein.
- Plaintiff Raymond W. Cobb was employed as an attorney by Defendant on behalf of itself and its clients. Plaintiff and Defendant agreed that Plaintiff would be paid at the rate of \$125.00 per hour. Plaintiff has submitted billing statements and/or time sheets for the time Plaintiff worked which total \$165,025,00.
- 8. Despite repeated written and oral requests for payment beginning in May, 2007, no wages have been paid Plaintiff. More than 30 days has passed for all demands for payment.
- 9. Pursuant to 19 Del. C. \$1101 et seq. Plaintiff brings this action for aforementioned wages and the penalties, interest and attorney's fees as provided by the statute.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in his favor in the amount of \$330,050.00 (wages \$165,025.00 and penalties of \$165,025.00) together with pre- and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed pursuant to 6 Del.C. §2301, costs of this suit, and attorney's fees.

#### COUNT II

- 10. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs1 through 5 of the Complaint as if set forth at length therein.
- 11. Plaintiffs and defendant entered into a contract for Plaintiffs to perform legal services for it at the rate of \$125.00 per hour. Plaintiffs performed the requested legal services for Defendant and has submitted invoices for fees and cost totaling \$167,789.62.
- 12. Defendant, without any justification, and despite demand, has failed to pay any of the invoices submitted and therefore has breached its contract with Plaintiffs.
- 13. As a further consequence of Defendant's refusal and/or failure to honor its contractual obligations, Plaintiffs have sustained consequential damages in an amount to be determined.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor in the amount of \$167,789.62 together with pre- and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed pursuant to 6 *Del.C.* §2301, consequential damages and costs of this suit.

/s/ JEFFREY M. WEDNER, ESOUIRE #403

JEFFREY M. WEINER, ESQUIRE #403

1332 King Street

Wilmington, Delaware 19801

(302) 652-0<del>505</del>-

Counsel for Plaintiffs

DATED: February 26, 2008

IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

EFiled: Feb 27 2008 10:0150 E Transaction ID 18763199 Case No. 08C-02-368 TBA IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

RAYMOND W. COBB and

RAYMOND W. COBB, LLC, a Delaware:

Limited Liability Company,

C.A. No. 08C-02-

Plaintiffs,

NON-ARBITRATION

V.

:

JURY TRIAL OF 12 DEMANDED

MCGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C., a

Foreign Professional Corporation,

:

Defendant.

#### CERTIFICATE OF VALUE

I, JEFFREY M. WEINER, attorney for Plaintiffs Raymond W. Cobb and Raymond W. Cobb, LLC, hereby certify in good faith at this time in my opinion that the sum of damages pled in the Counterclaim is in excess of \$100,000.00 exclusive of costs and interests.

/s/ JEFFREY M. WEINER, ESQUIRE #403

JEFFREY M. WEINER, ESQUIRE #403

1332 King Street

Wilmington, Delaware 19801

(302) 652-0505

Counsel for Plaintiffs

DATED:

February 26, 2008

# **EXHIBIT B**

#### IN THE DELAWARE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

RAYMOND W. COBB, and

RAYMOND W. COBB, LLC, a Delaware C.A. No. 08C-02-368 TBA

Plaintiffs,

v.

MCGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C. a Foreign Professional Corporation,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO:

Office of Prothonotary Jeffrey M. Weiner, Esquire

**New Castle County Courthouse** Law Offices of Jeffrey M. Weiner, P.A.

**500 King Street** 1332 King Street

Wilmington, DE 19801 Wilmington, DE 19801

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 3, 2008, defendant McGivney and Kluger, P.C., by and through the undersigned counsel, filed a Notice of Removal in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, thereby removing this action thereto and prohibiting further proceedings in the Delaware Superior Court unless and until the action is remanded. A true and correct copy of the Notice of Removal is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

#### MCGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C.

Dated: March 3, 2008 By:  $/_{\rm S}/$ 

Mary F. Higgins (No. 4179)

McGIVNEY

1001 North Jefferson Street, Suite 208

Wilmington, DE 19801 (302) 225-0458 - Telephone (302) 777-4111- Facsimile

Pro Se Defendant

Of Counsel:

William D. Sanders, Esq.

MCGIVNEY AND KLUGER, P.C

23 Vreeland Road Florham Park, NJ 07932

973-822-1110 - Telephone

973-822-1116 - Facsimile

## EXHIBIT "1"

### SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07) Case 1:08-cv-00123-GMSTV Document 1-4 Filed 03/03/2008 Page 1 of 1

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM)

the civil docket sheet. (SEE II	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)								
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS						
RAYMOND W. COBB A	AND RAYMOND W. COBB, LLC	McGIVNEY & I	McGIVNEY & KLUGER, P.C.						
<b>(b)</b> County of Residence (E	e of First Listed Plaintiff New Castle EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	NOTE: IN LAN	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.						
(2) 444 2 274 24		A 44 (16 V. )							
• •	e, Address, and Telephone Number)	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Attorneys (If Known)						
Jeπrey M. vveiner, Esq. 302-652-0505	, 1332 King Street, Wilimington, DE	Mary F. Higgins, McGivney & Kluger, P.C., 1001 North  Jefferson Street, Suite 208 Wilmington, DE 302- ■							
II. BASIS OF JURISI	<b>DICTION</b> (Place an "X" in One Box Only)			(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff					
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		PTF DEF  1 Incorporated or Profile of Business In Th						
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity  (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 Incorporated and of Business In						
		3	□ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6					
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Foreign Country							
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES					
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Slander 368 Asbestos Persona  309 Federal Employers' Liability Injury Product Liability  340 Marine Product Liability  345 Marine Product Liability  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lending  371 Truth in Lending  371 Truth in Lending  372 Other Personal  373 Other Personal  374 Property Damage  375 Motor Vehicle  376 Property Damage  377 Property Damage	G20 Other Food & Drug   G25 Drug Related Seizure   of Property 21 USC 881   G30 Liquor Laws   G40 R.R. & Truck   G50 Airline Regs.   G60 Occupational   Safety/Health   G90 Other     LABOR     710 Fair Labor Standards   Act     720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations     730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting   & Disclosure Act     740 Railway Labor Act     790 Other Labor Litigation     791 Empl. Ret. Inc.   Security Act	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and					
□ 1 Original ■ 2 R	tate Court Appellate Court	Reopened anoth							
	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you a 28 U.S.C. 1332	re filing (Do not cite jurisdiction	nal statutes unless diversity):						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Brief description of cause: Dispute between New Jersey law	w tirm and supervisor of	its Delaware office						
VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION		CHECK YES only	if demanded in complaint:					
<b>COMPLAINT:</b>		330,050.00	JURY DEMAND	: <b>Ø</b> Yes □ No					
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER						
DATE 03/03/2008	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Mary F. Higgins (Del Bar No. 4179)								
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY									
RECEIPT #	AMOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE					